

## Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 DOTE-00 FAA-00  
SY-05 USSS-00 DHA-05 /064 W  
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P R 031706Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2817  
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS: GW  
SUBJECT: FRG DOCUMENT ON SCHLEYER KIDNAPPING AND  
LUFTHANSA HIJACKING

REF: BONN 18016 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 2 THE FRG FEDERAL PRESS AND  
INFORMATION SERVICE ISSUED A 224-PAGE "DOCUMENTATION  
ON THE EVENTS AND DECISIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
KIDNAPPING OF HANNS MARTIN SCHLEYER AND THE HIJACKING  
OF THE LUFTHANSA LANDSHUT". THE DOCUMENT, WHICH IS IN  
CHRONOLOGICAL FORM, CONTAINS A NUMBER OF NEW ITEMS OF  
INTEREST BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY SENSATIONAL  
REVELATIONS. KEY POINTS IN THE DOCUMENT ARE (1) THAT  
THE FRG MADE A FIRM (THOUGH NOT IRREVOCABLE) DECISION  
WITHIN ONE DAY OF THE KIDNAPPING OF SCHLEYER NOT TO  
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ACCEDE TO THE DEMANDS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE BAADER-  
MEINHOF PRISONERS; (2) THAT THERE WERE APPARENTLY  
ORGANIZATIONAL AS WELL AS IDEOLOGICAL LINKS BETWEEN  
SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS AND THE LUFTHANSA HIJACKERS,  
AND (3) THAT THE BAADER-MEINHOF PRISONERS HAD  
THREATENED SUICIDE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THE DOCUMENT  
CONTAINS NO REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES NOR DOES

IT PROVIDE ANY NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KILLING OF LUFTHANSA PILOT SCHUMANN (REFTEL). THE DOCUMENT HAS ALREADY BECOME A SOURCE OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, WITH THE OPPOSITION CHARGING THAT IT CONTAINS SECURITY DETAILS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN EDITED OUT BEFORE PUBLICATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DOCUMENT RELEASED YESTERDAY EVENING BY THE FRG PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICES CONSISTS OF 132 PAGES PLUS A 92-PAGE ANNEX. AN EARLIER DRAFT, DEEMED TOO VOLUMINOUS FOR PUBLICATION, CONTAINED FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTARIES AND DETAILS OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN LEADERS. THESE SECTIONS DO NOT APPEAR IN THE CURRENT VERSION. THE DOCUMENT DEALS LARGELY WITH THE SCHLEYER CASE AND CONTAINS INTER ALIA: FACTUAL ACCOUNTS AND TEXTS OF NUMEROUS CONTACTS BETWEEN FRG AUTHORITIES AND SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS, VIA THE OFFICE OF SWISS ATTORNEY PAYOT; COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BAADER-MEINHOF PRISONERS IN STAMMHEIM, AND THE TEXT OF VARIOUS MESSAGES SENT BY SCHLEYER DURING HIS CAPTIVITY.

2. THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION ON THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OR DISCUSSIONS HELD WITHIN THE CABINET OR THE VARIOUS TASK FORCES. NOR DOES IT HAVE ACCOUNTS ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN FRG OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FOREIGN LEADERS, SECURITY DETAILS, OR INFORMATION ON THE SEARCH CONDUCTED FOR THE TERRORISTS AND THEIR CAPTIVE. THE DOCUMENT ALSO LEAVES UNTOUCHED THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE SUICIDES OF BAADER, RASPE AND ENSSLIN. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE RELEASING THE DOCUMENT, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING STATED THAT THE LATTER POINT WAS NOT COVERED SINCE IT REMAINED THE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION BY BADEN-WUERTEMBERG AUTHORITIES. BOELLING SAID THE LAND GOVERNMENT OF BADEN-WUERTEMBERG WOULD COMPILE ITS OWN REPORT ON THIS ASPECT OF THE DRAMA.

3. THE DOCUMENT BEGINS WITH THE KIDNAPPING OF HANNS MARTIN SCHLEYER ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1977 AND CONCLUDES WITH A STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 20 BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF SCHLEYER. BELOW IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE KEY POINTS CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTATION.

4. GOVERNMENT POSITION WITH REGARD TO DEMANDS OF SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS: AT ITS FIRST MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6, THE LARGE TASK FORCE (WHICH CONSISTED OF

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, OPPOSITION LEADERS AND MINISTER-PRESIDENTS OF THE LAENDER IN WHICH THE BAADER-MEINHOF PRISONERS WERE DETAINED), SET THE FOLLOWING THREE

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DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 DOTE-00 FAA-00  
SY-05 USSS-00 DHA-05 /064 W  
-----009803 031802Z /70

P R 031706Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2818  
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
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GOALS:

- (A) OBTAIN THE SAFE RELEASE OF SCHLEYER,
- (B) BRING THE KIDNAPPERS TO JUSTICE, AND
- (C) DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD ENDANGER THE ABILITY OF THE STATE TO ACT OR CAUSE IT TO LOSE CONFIDENCE AT HOME OR ABROAD; THIS MEANT: A REFUSAL TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS WHOSE FREEDOM WAS BEING SOUGHT BY BLACKMAIL.

THESE THREE GOALS WERE TO BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT AND PURSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE ANOTHER. A DECISION AS TO WHICH OF THE GOALS SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY IN THE

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EVENT A CONTRADICTION AROSE I.E., SCHLEYER'S SAFE RELEASE OR THE FREEDOM OF THE PRISONERS, WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL IT BECAME UNAVOIDABLE. SOME SEGMENTS OF THE PRESS HAVE INTERPRETED THE FOREGOING AS INDICATING THAT THE FRG CRISIS TEAM HAD FIRMLY DECIDED NOT TO GIVE IN TO THE DEMANDS OF SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. WHILE THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FRG POLICY THROUGHOUT THE KIDNAPPING, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE FRG DID LEAVE ITSELF SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL TIES BETWEEN THE HIJACKERS AND THE KIDNAPPERS: THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS SOLID INDICATIONS, THOUGH NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF, OF ORGANIZATIONAL TIES BETWEEN SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS AND THE LUFTHANSA HIJACKERS. (IT WAS, OF COURSE, ALREADY KNOWN THAT THERE WERE IDEOLOGICAL BONDS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS AND THAT THEIR EFFORTS WERE TO SOME EXTENT COORDINATED.) ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, A NUMBER OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE HIJACKERS WERE TYPED ON THE SAME MACHINE USED BY SCHLEYER'S KIDNAPPERS. THIS HAS LED AUTHORITIES TO BELIEVE THERE WAS A COMMON OFFICE ("EINSATZZENTRALE") USED TO DIRECT THE ACTIVITIES OF BOTH GROUPS.

6. SUICIDE THREATS BY BAADER-MEINHOF PRISONERS: ONE OF THE STAMMHEIM PRISONERS, JAN-CARL RASPE, THREATENED SUICIDE AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 29 IN A CONVERSATION WITH A MEMBER OF THE BUNDESKRIMINALAMT (BKA), (ROUGHLY ANALOGOUS TO OUR FBI). RASPE IS QUOTED AS HAVING STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO BE USING DELAYING TACTICS IN AN EFFORT TO CAPTURE THE KIDNAPPERS AND THAT "THIS WOULD MEAN PROGRAMMING A POLITICAL CATASTROPHE; NAMELY, DEAD PRISONERS." IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITION, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BKA OFFICIALS IN STAMMHEIM ON OCTOBER 8 AND 9, BOTH BAADER AND ENSSLIN THREATENED SUICIDE AS A METHOD OF SHARPENING THE TERRORISTS' STRUGGLE. THE REPORT CONTAINS NO INDICATION OF INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF THE PRISONERS AFTER THESE THREATS.

7. MESSAGES FROM SCHLEYER: DURING HIS LONG PERIOD OF CAPTIVITY, SCHLEYER SENT DETAILED MESSAGES

ON HIS OWN PLIGHT, THE GENERAL THEME OF TERRORISM, AND ON THE INCOMPETENCE OF THE FRG AND PARTICULARLY THE BKA. THESE MESSAGES WERE SENT INTER ALIA TO CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL AND SCHLEYER'S SON EBERHARD. THE MESSAGES DO NOT CONTAIN PLEAS BY SCHLEYER THAT HIS LIFE BE SPARED BY GRANTING THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS, THOUGH HE DOES ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE DEMANDS WILL BE MET. SCHLEYER'S MESSAGES ARE, HOWEVER, CRITICAL OF THE ABSENCE OF A DECISION BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES AND ALSO CONTAIN ATTACKS ON THE ALLEGED INCOMPETENCE OF THE BKA IN INSURING HIS SAFETY PRIOR TO THE KIDNAPPING AND IN FINDING THE KIDNAPPERS. IN A LETTER TO KOHL, SCHLEYER STATES, "I AM NOT PREPARED TO DIE QUIETLY IN ORDER TO COVER UP FOR THE MISTAKES OF THE BKA CHIEF, WHOM YOU REGARD SO HIGHLY." THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THESE MESSAGES WERE FORMULATED UNDER DURESS NOR DOES IT CONTAIN FRG REBUTTALS TO SCHLEYER'S ALLEGATIONS.

8. COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TERRORISTS: THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS EVIDENCE THAT THE STAMMHEIM TERRORISTS CONTINUED TO COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER DESPITE THE "KONTAKTSPERRE".

9. FOREIGN ROLE: THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO ACTIONS BY OR COMMUNICATIONS WITH US LEADERS. IT DOES INCLUDE AN ENTRY FOR THE EVENING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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-----009831 031804Z /70  
P R 031706Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2819  
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
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OCTOBER 16 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE FRG WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS." ON THAT SAME EVENING, THERE IS ANOTHER ENTRY REFERRING TO SIMILAR CONTACTS WITH THE GDR.

10. REFUSAL BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT BAADER-MEINHOF PRISONERS: THE DOCUMENT STATES THAT VIETNAM AND SOUTH YEMEN REFUSED TO GIVE THE STAMMHEIM PRISONERS ASYLUM.

11. THE MURDER OF LUFTHANSA PILOT SCHUMANN: THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS NO NEW INFORMATION ON THE MURDER OF LUFTHANSA PILOT SCHUMANN. THE SOLE ENTRY IN THE CHRONOLOGY REGARDING THE KILLING IS AS FOLLOWS:  
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"OCTOBER 16 AT 1555: DESPITE THE CLOSING OF THE AIRPORT IN ADEN, THE HIJACKED BOEING 737 LANDED ALONGSIDE THE RUNWAY ON A STRETCH OF SAND. AFTER INSPECTION OF HIS PLANE, CAPTAIN SCHUMANN WAS SWORN AT BY THE TERRORIST LEADER, FORCED TO GET DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND WAS SHOT DEAD. THE KIDNAPPERS LET THE BODY LIE ON THE FLOOR OF THE PLANE."

12. THE RELEASE OF THE DOCUMENT HAS ALREADY INITIATED A POLITICAL CONTROVERSY. THE OPPOSITION HAS MADE PUBLIC A LETTER DATED OCTOBER 28 ON BEHALF OF THE CDU/CSU, FROM THE LEADER OF THE CSU GROUP IN THE BUNDESTAG, ZIMMERMANN, EXPRESSING STRONG RESERVATIONS AGAINST THE PUBLICATION OF THE DOCUMENT AND STATING THAT THE OPPOSITION DID NOT AGREE WITH ITS PLANNED RELEASE. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, BOELLING STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DOCUMENT BY THE OPPOSITION AND THAT IT WAS UP TO THEM

TO MAKE CLEAR THEIR RESERVATIONS. BOELLING ADDED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH A DOCUMENT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY ALL PARTIES SHORTLY AFTER THE KIDNAPPING. THIS WAS SEEN AS A MEANS OF BRINGING TO LIGHT DETAILS THAT HAD BEEN HELD FROM THE PRESS BECAUSE OF THE NEWS BLACKOUT. CDU/CSU CIRCLES ARE BEING QUOTED AS JUSTIFYING THEIR CRITICISM OF THE DOCUMENT ON THE BASIS THAT IT STILL CONTAINS MATERIAL ON GOVERNMENT TACTICS THAT WILL BE OF USE TO TERRORISTS IN FUTURE INCIDENTS.

13. EMBASSY IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT TO EUR/CE.

14. COMMENT: THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE DOCUMENT IS SURE TO CONTINUE. THE DOCUMENT'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPLICATION THAT THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES DID NOT INCREASE THEIR SURVEILLANCE OF THE STAMMHEIM PRISONERS DESPITE THEIR DEATH THREATS WILL CREATE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR AN ALREADY BELEAGUERED MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER. FOR ITS PART, THE OPPOSITION WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO POINT TO SCHLEYER'S CHARGES OF INCOMPETENCE BY GOVERNMENT ORGANS AS HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO HIS CAPTURE. THIS CHANGE HAS ALREADY STRUCK A NERVE IN SPD AND FDP RANK (SEE SEPTEL). END COMMENT. STOESEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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